

South Grad May Get Hero's Medal

By JERRY REYNOLDS
Press-Herald Staff Writer

"He's been a hero today." Those words, spoken to assure a worried mother, proved true—but few knew it until just a few days ago.

The speaker was Joe Wilcox, executive secretary of the Torrance Family YMCA. He was talking about Marine Pfc. Peter Mora, a 19-year-old graduate of South High, who has been recommended for the Marine Corps Medal.

The truth of Wilcox's prophecy was revealed Wednesday afternoon when the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany slid slowly and sadly into San Diego harbor. The Oriskany sailed five months ago for duty off the coast of Viet Nam, but her stay was shortened by a steady fire which left 46 officers and men dead.

Another 12 officers and men who sailed with Oriskany died or are reported missing in patrol and air strikes in Viet Nam.

Pfc. Mora was not on board the Oriskany when she limped into port Wednesday. He was left behind in Subic Bay, Philippines, where he is recovering from third degree burns on his hands.

The 19-year-old Marine was a guard in the forward flight deck when magnesium flares, stored near the officers' quarters in the forward flight hangar, caught fire and exploded.

When the fire broke out, Pfc. Mora rushed to a steel door which barred the escape of several sleeping fliers. He grabbed the handle and managed to get the door open—although it was already too hot to touch.

Mora said he didn't notice the white-hot heat until later—when he discovered his hands could no longer close

on his rifle. His quick reaction saved the lives of several fliers and earned praise from the ship's commander, Capt. John H. Iarrobino.

Mora was but one of many teenagers whose heroism was praised by Capt. Iarrobino. Noting that many of the Oriskany's crew are in their teens, Capt. Iarrobino said he could not "praise too highly the service they rendered in fighting the fire, which might have destroyed this ship, and in saving lives of men aboard her who might otherwise have died."

"They were the strongest and best we had and I am

proud to serve with them," the captain said. "I'll never hear another derogatory reference to teenagers."

Wilcox agrees with Capt. Iarrobino, particularly in the case of young Mora. Wilcox told the Press-Herald he knew Mora had "done the right thing" because of the "all-American young adult he is."

He told Mrs. Amelia Mora the same thing on the day of the fire. Pfc. Mora graduated from South High in June, 1964, and entered the Marine Corps in September. He graduated fourth in his class in basic training and was assigned to

the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt.

He had been on the Oriskany about eight days when the fire broke out and was aboard the Roosevelt when she, too, experienced a fire a few days later.

Active in the Boy Scouts and the Torrance YMCA, young Mora put together the slide show which YMCA officials used to tell the story of the "Y" during the \$800,000 building fund campaign.

He was a member of the YMCA Leaders' Club and for two summers served as a head counselor at the YMCA camps.



PETE MORA

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Sunday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879

TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
AdvertisingDA 5-6060
Women's NewsDA 5-6380
News DepartmentDA 5-6060

INSIDE TODAY

Ann LandersA-5 TelevisionA-8
CrosswordA-5 SportsA-10
EditorialsA-4 WomenB-1
ObituariesA-2 Want AdsB-11

Sunday, November 20, 1966



3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California — Series II, Volume III, No. 41

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month By Mail \$12 Per Year

30 PAGES

FURNACE BLAST INJURES 13

Attorney Appointed In Lomita

J. William Phillips, 32, has been appointed city attorney for Lomita, according to Stanley Green, city administrator.

Phillips, now with the law firm of Woolley and Woolley in Torrance, succeeds Ray A. Farthing, who is resigning Dec. 1 to devote full time to his private law practice.

A member of the California State and Los Angeles County bar associations, Phillips is a graduate of Detroit College of Law. He is admitted to practice law before the state and federal courts of California, Michigan and Louisiana and before the Internal Revenue Service Tax Court.

Phillips has served as assistant city attorney in Lomita since September, 1965. He and his wife reside at 826 Via Los Miradores with their three children.

North Freshmen Elect Officers

Lori Rotolante has been elected president of the freshman class at North High. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rotolante of 18708 Kornblum Ave.

Other officers for the fall semester are Peggy Mullin, vice president; Kathleen DiGiacomo, secretary; Barbara Larson, treasurer; and Connie Cronin, Girls' League representative.



GRADUATION DAY AT ACADEMY . . . Six new Torrance police officers were among the 95 graduating Friday after a 15-week training course at the Los Angeles Sheriff's Training Academy in Los Angeles. From left are Torrance Police Lieutenant Donald E.

Nash, Officers Victor R. Grijalva, Larry Paul Caudill, Donnie Lee Smith, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, Torrance Chief Walter E. Koenig, and officers Ervin E. Palica, Lanny Kent Harris, and Timothy Richards. (Story on Page A-9 today)

Police Officer Named Chaplain for December

Torrance Police Officer Gary Rippstein has been appointed Chaplain of the Month and will deliver the invocation at the weekly meeting of the Torrance City Council during December.

Officer Rippstein was named to the post by the Rev. Arthur Nagel, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Torrance and president of the Torrance Ministerial Association.

The new chaplain has served as a missionary and minister for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. While serving in the U.S. Army, he was in charge of the church's youth programs at Fort Sill and Lawton, Okla.

As chaplain of the Torrance Police Department he has officiated at a number of religious services since his appointment early this year by Chief of Police Walter R. Koenig.

Rose Queen for 1967 Selected

Miss Barbara Hewitt, a 19-year-old coed from Altadena, has been named Queen of the 1967 Tournament of Roses.

The six princesses selected as members of Queen Barbara's court include Barbara Beckley, Cheryl Blanken, Mary Lynn Fenoglio, Katherine Grund, Karen O'Kane, and Janet Wopschall.

South Students Protest Ban on 'Strip' Permits

Proposed cancellation of dance permits and business licenses of some Sunset Strip nightclubs catering to minors was protested Friday by more than 60 South High students who petitioned County Supervisors to reconsider the matter.

Led by David D. Stubbs and C. Neal Edwards, the students told the supervisors that the "clubs and young adults who patronize them

are not the source of your problems."

THE SOUTH students' protest also carried the hint of a warning about what could happen if the supervisors continue to support "the people who, now, have the money and the vote. . . ."

"First, there may be a continuation of the unfortunate incidents of last weekend by the young people whom you

propose to deny. If this happens, there may be no more property rights for you to defend on Sunset because of a rather sudden loss of useable property to defend."

The students said also that the course of action taken by the supervisors caused more trouble and strife than it was intended to correct.

"WE CAN promise you that young people who don't necessarily visit the clubs on the Strip but who support the principle of individual freedom over property rights will rise up and work for your removal from the board and the condemnation of your policies," the students wrote.

Stubbs and Edwards said the 60 signatures were obtained on the South High campus in one day and that the material had been sent off to the supervisors Friday.

MORE THAN 1,000 persons swarmed onto Sunset Friday night rocking cars, blocking traffic, and throwing eggs after a group of teenagers and young adults had made a peaceful march through the area protesting enforcement of the 10 p.m. curfew.

Mrs. Carlson Will Speak At Evening Service Here

Mrs. Lois Carlson, widow of Dr. Paul Carlson who was martyred in the Congo, will be guest speaker at special evening services today at Central Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Mrs. Carlson will show slides and discuss the ministry in the Congo. She also will answer questions on the subject of Africa and the needs of the people of the African nations. The service will begin at 6:30.

Refreshments will be served in the Guild Hall following the evening service.

The Rev. Walter M. Stanton, pastor of the church, will deliver a special Thanksgiving

Instructor Named To Commission

Virginia Pfiffner, psychology instructor at El Camino College, will serve as the only woman member on California's Commission on Higher Education as a result of her appointment by the California Teacher's Association board of directors. Miss Pfiffner replaces El Camino mathematics instructor Clela Hammond.

Firemen Probe Explosion at Harvey Plant

Cause of a blast which injured 13 men and did an estimated \$50,000 damage to the foundry at the Harvey Aluminum Co. plant here Thursday evening is being conducted by plant officials and experts of the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

The giant aluminum manufacturing plant was rocked shortly after 8 p.m. Thursday when a furnace exploded. Many of the men working in the area were injured by a collapsing roof which resulted from the blast. One victim told newsmen that it was "like a bomb going off."

MOST SERIOUSLY injured were Gerald Irvin, 2211 Rockefeller Lane, Redondo Beach, and Ron Ward, 16504 Atkinson St., Gardena. They were taken to Harbor General Hospital with burns and head injuries. Others taken to Harbor General Hospital included Carl Peques, Compton; Jesse Mize, Norwalk; Oda D. King, Redondo Beach.

Taken to Little Company of Mary Hospital were Lawrence Mergerson, Los Angeles; John Nelson, 315 W. 223rd St.; Jonathan Stanley, Hawaiian of Education.

Gardens; Ron Bender, 2219 W. 248th St., Lomita; and Robert Silva, Los Angeles.

TAKEN TO Morningside Hospital were Alfred Miller, Gardena; Edmund Kubo, Harbor City; and Ted Duver, 1830 Torrance Blvd.

The blast shattered a 100 x 300 steel frame building at the huge aluminum plant at 190th and Western Aves.

Educators To Attend Conference

Three Torrance school officials will represent the local district Dec. 10 in San Diego at a meeting of larger school districts of the state.

The meeting has been called to discuss the problems of financing public education in California.

The trio includes Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools; Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent for business, and Mrs. Kenneth E. Watts, a member of the Board

Popular Columnist Dies ---

Hollywood columnist Mike Connolly, whose weekly wrap-up of inquiries about Hollywood personalities has been published by the Press-Herald for several years, died Friday following surgery at Rochester, Minn. He was 52. Connolly, a native of Chicago, worked in that city before coming to California, where he was one of the top chroniclers of the Hollywood scene. "In this business you gotta have heart and mine has been giving me fits of late," he wrote in his daily column on Oct. 21. He told his Hollywood Reporter readers that he would be back "in a couple of weeks."

Woman Struck, Killed

Jose M. Rodriguez of 21217 S. New Hampshire Ave. was arrested on suspicion of felony manslaughter Friday night after his vehicle allegedly struck and killed Lorraine M. Stanley, 16949 S. Western Ave., as she was crossing Western Avenue near her home. The woman had just left her home a few minutes before she was struck. She died at Gardena Hospital about an hour after the accident.

Board, Council to Meet ---

Members of the Board of Education will put on their traveling shoes this week as they move the site of their regular meeting to North High School, where they will convene at 7:30 p.m. Monday. It is part of their plan of holding meetings during the year in each of the four high school attendance areas. The City Council will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday with the scheduled consideration of the proposed cemetery certain to be the major topic of the evening.



GARY RIPPSTEIN
Chaplain of Month